



ST. JEROME'S ENGLISH COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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How can I remain Faithful all my life?



The question is not whether I can remain faithful all my life when I get married, but rather whether I am determined to stay with the person I marry for life. Every day, we are called to renew the commitment we made in Church on our wedding day; to say 'yes' in our everyday acts.

I give myself to you and I receive you. To be faithful is to grow together in this mutual gift that began the day we got married and that will flourish more and more through the years. This gift needs time to grow. It is a life project to be pursued together. It is being able to say to the other: *Whatever happens I'll be with you, in good times and in bad. It is a commitment worked at together day by day.*

■ An example of faithfulness is the woman who lost her husband after fifty years of marriage who said: "We still had so many things to say to each other!" To believe in the other, to hope in them, to be open to them everyday, is the road to fidelity: a road that is at times difficult, at times demanding, but also a source of great happiness and growth.

■ However, this state of fidelity is not safe from temptation. Indifference kills fidelity: *I don't have time for you now, my career, my personal growth, my sports, my music....my friends come first. After all I'm free, I want to hold on to my freedom, etc.* Little by little, communication fades away and each one lives for themselves instead of for and with the other. Then a dissatisfaction arises and when faced with the tribulations of life, we are tempted to break our promise of fidelity.

■ We need to keep a guard on our heart, our eyes, our body and our language in order to

preserve and protect our fidelity just as we would preserve something precious. The temptations of the world are strong: trivializing the sexual act, seeking my own pleasures, provocative fashion, movies that promote infidelity, etc. So many things can undermine our fidelity. It seems pretty brave to risk a promise of faithfulness, and only God can help us to keep it. The more we are helped by God's love to stay open to each other, the stronger our fidelity will become.

■ The Sacrament of Marriage is the never-ending spring which we can draw from every day to nurture our faithfulness to each other. The love that has its source in God can win the gamble of fidelity. Remember the words Jesus addresses to each one of us: *Do not be afraid, I am with you always, to the end of time.* (Matthew 28:20)

Fare – Ye – Well Be- loved Fr. Ferdinand



"Some people come into our lives and leaves foot-prints on our hearts and we are never - ever the same."

The time has come for us to say goodbye, and thou we wish that we could have you longer with us in St. Jerome, we know that we must let you go to enjoy some much-deserved rest after selflessly serving as our Parish Priest (2003-2008). Beloved Father, how can we thank you enough for all that you have done? Over the years, you have won not only our respect and admiration, but also our love and gratitude.

We wish you God speed, our thoughts and prayers go with you as you embark on a new phase of your life in your new mission. Keep us in your memory, and above all, in your prayers, we dare not ask for more. Goodbyes are not forever, goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean, we'll miss you until we meet again. THANKS.

MIGRANT DESK CORNER

Termination of Contract: overstaying, and surviving



Is there something that can be done to help workers who for some reason or another have become overstayers?

The advice here is for individuals in this situation to realize that the situation cannot go on forever. Sooner or later, reality will catch up with them. They will in all likelihood be caught by the police or immigration and if they are caught while they are working they will probably go to jail for as long as six months.

However, there is the possibility for a person in such a situation to try at least to minimize the damage. If a worker is living in Hong Kong as an overstayer, it is possible for her to "surrender" herself to the Immigration Department and request to return home. It is advisable in such a situation for the worker to first consult one of the government agencies and consular offices. In addition, the Philippines Consulate will offer assistance to their nationals in these cases.

The consulate or the help organizations will be able to provide assistance in writing a letter to the Immigration Department explaining the specific circumstances of her overstaying her visa. It would also be a good idea to provide the Immigration Department with a return air ticket and the address of a shelter or a friend where the worker is able to stay during this time. At the Immigration Department, the worker will be questioned about her actions and then a date will be given for her to appear in court.

At that time, she will be charged with the offence of overstaying. Again, a letter given by a help agency would be able to explain the exact circumstances regarding the offence. Although it cannot be guaranteed, it is likely that the worker will receive only a suspended sentence for a period of say, two years, and if the worker doesn't get into trouble within that

time, she will not have to go to prison. Following the court hearing, the worker will spend maybe another week in Hong Kong, while the immigration department makes final arrangements for the return home.

Although this idea of surrender to the Immigration authorities may not seem like an ideal solution (for example it won't solve the money problems that the worker may still have) at least she will probably be able to avoid spending time in a Hong Kong prison.

Take Your Rights seriously (Jim Rice)



**KAMMPI'S
" Pistahan sa Nayon "**

We had heard that KAMMPI's Pistahan sa Nayon was pretty special but little did we know just how special and entertaining it really was. The magic began when we left St. Jerome's Church. Everyone was so excited about what was going to happen and cherished the hope that we would bring home a title. It was a real treat for all of us. We enjoyed the entire program; especially the emcees, the beautiful ladies were breathtaking as well as their elegant gowns. Of course that included our very own *Maria Elena " MS. Mila de Guzman."* She did a very good job representing St. Jerome's and we also give special thanks to *Noel Kasongo*, our friend for doing a great job in escorting our Maria Elena.

The audience's enthusiasm and energy was so contagious, and we enjoyed the talents displayed by all the candidates and the participating parish groups, the beauty of the songs, the dances and the festive mood around us. The Pistahan sa Nayon Festival provided wonderful entertainment and left us with a great desire to learn more and to remember our roots as a Filipino during our day to day life. Again, our congratulations to Ms. Mila de Guzman. It was indeed an amazing and uplifting experience.

Mabuhay!!!

MONTH'S SCRIPTURES



June 6: 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: Open for God

Readings: ♦ Zech 9:9- 10

♦ Rm 8:9, 11 - 13 ♦ Mt 11:25 - 30

When life becomes overburdened with trouble or anxiety, Jesus offers us another way. He invites us to follow the way of Love instead of domination, of letting go instead of controlling, of peace and non-violence instead of force. Jesus humbles himself so as to share our burdens and welcomes all who come to him. With Jesus by our side, we can do things which would be impossible alone. He lightens our burdens and shows us the Way to Life.

June 13: 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: We hear God's word

Readings: ♦ Is 55 - 10 - 11

♦ Rm 8:18 - 23 ♦ Mt 13:1 - 23

God's inner life is a deep mystery, for He is 'great beyond our knowledge'. The Word, however, fully comprehends the Father and God reveals Himself through Jesus, His Word. God's revelation reached its supreme expression in the incarnation, life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Spirit, Jesus began God's reign on earth among us all. To hear the Word of God, to see His signs, our hearts must be receptive and ready to put it into action.

June 20: 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: God is merciful

Readings: ♦ Wis 12:13, 16 - 19

♦ Rm 8:26 - 27 ♦ Mt 13:24 - 43

In today's Gospel we hear then story of a landowner whose main concern is to nurture the growth of wheat rather than eliminate the weeds. He chose to foster the good. God is like this landowner. He does not destroy sinners immediately, but gives them a chance for a change of heart. God patiently waits for us to repent. As sinners forgiven by God, we too, are called to be patient, merciful and forgiving.

June 27: 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: Where is your treasure?

Readings: ♦ 1 Kgs 3:5, 7 - 12

♦ Rm 8:28 - 30 ♦ Mt 13:44 - 52

The Kingdom of God is a treasure beyond any price. God has revealed to us in Jesus, who we are and how we are to live. He desires that we freely respond, and make concrete in our particular life circumstances that call to holiness and living by the commandment of love.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

■ On **Tuesday July 1**, (Public Holiday), the English Community will have a special **BBQ** in **BUTTERFLY BEACH** (Tuen Mun). For details, please check the Bulletin Board or contact Group leaders.

■ There will be a **Health Talk** on **July 6** after Mass in the Church Hall (4th Floor - 9:00 am). Everyone is invited.

Just for Fun

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, "**Stop - Acts 2:38!**" (*..turn from your sin...*)

The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar, "She said she had an AXE and two 38's!"

(*The axe, or ax, is an implement that has been used for millennia to shape, split and cut wood, harvest timber, as a weapon.*)